GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2789
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
ACQUISITION OF HELICOPTERS FOR ARMY
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States (US) has questioned about the disqualification of an American firm in a proposed deal to acquire 197 helicopters for the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details of issues raised by the US about the bona-fides of firm; and

(c) the decision taken and settlement, if any, reached with the firm for procurement of the helicopters?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) The US Government conveyed their concern over the disqualification of M/s Bell Helicopter Company in the case of procurement of a replacement helicopter for the Cheetah/Chetak helicopters of the Indian Army.

(b) No issues have been raised about the bona-fides of the firm by the US Government.

(c) The helicopter offered by Bell Helicopter Company was not found technically qualified as per General Staff evaluation made by the Army based on field trials. No settlement has either been reached or proposed with the firm.